BIRD - CALENDAR – 1928 – 24th YEAR

BULLETIN No. 1

Although the temperature, on the average, was rather high in the months of January, February and March, the frequent and often sudden changes in the weather during the last five or six weeks have been unfavorable for early spring migrations of birds to Cleveland and vicinity. Yet the first Bulletin of the present season shows that about the usual number of both winter residents and spring migrants have been observed. Few if any unusual birds have been seen as yet, and no thrilling bird stories or experiences have been reported during the winter that has just ended. Still, such a sight as that of several hundred Bonaparte Gulls "Bedded" on the water, - actually seen at the end of the pier in Gordon Park, December 17, 1927, does not come in the experience of even constant bird observers every winter of their lives.

Moreover the study of the habits of our regular winter residents and especially of that rapidly increasing "stranger within our gates", the Starling, so unwelcome to most people who know little or nothing about this interesting bird – all furnish amusing entertainment to those bird lovers who happen to live near any of the city parks. More than once during the last winter anybody who happened to be strolling through Wade Park about sunset hour could have the real pleasure of attending the "Vesper" services of as many as 200-300 Starlings, collected on the upper limbs of the big high trees near the bridge across the ravine. Their multifarious notes, whether genuine song or a squeak, or a click or a screech, blend together on such occasions, so as to produce a pleasant and impressive harmony. Hudson has aptly described the "perpetual starling conversation – talk and song recitative" as a "sort of bird-Yiddish, with fluty fragments of melody stolen from the blackbird, and whistle and click and the music of the triangle thrown in to give variety." (Hampshire Days, 1923, p.3)

The weekly calendar of the birds that live in, or occasionally visit Lake View Gulch during the six months from October 1st to April 1st, which Dean Henry Turner Bailey and his son Gilbert have so carefully kept for several years, shows the following for the winter of 1927-28: Crow, Cardinal, Junco, Robin, Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Quail, Tree Sparrow, Starling, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, - 14 varieties, all of which except the Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, and Hairy Woodpecker, were seen at some time during each of the six months. And even those four probably remained throughout the winter, since the Brown Creeper was observed in October, January, and early April; the Crow, October, January, March; the Hairy Woodpecker, October, December, February, March; the Tufted Titmouse, October, November, February, and March.

Downy Woodpecker, Cardinals, Chickadees, Juncos, Starlings, Song Sparrows, and White-breasted Nuthatches were also seen at various times during the winter in Wade Park, where at least Song Sparrows, Chickadees, and Juncos, have not been observed with such frequency in any recent winter. It is worthy of note in speaking of the Junco, that some sort of bird affinity seems to exist between the Field Sparrow and the Slate-colored Junco.

During the last few days numbers of Field Sparrows have been seen almost daily in Wade Park always feeding on, or flying along the ground with a flock of Juncos. More than once in recent years the writer has observed sparrows interspersed with flocks of Juncos feeding in and around Wade Park, and they were apparently not Chipping Sparrows nor Tree Sparrows; but as the sparrows did not reveal their identity by singing, as they have done several times this spring, it was not easy to say to which "tribe" of these closely related sparrows they belonged.

The following list includes both winter residents and the Spring migrants reported before April 1, 1928.

1. American Crow; Ocasionally during the winter in Wade Park; Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; March 9, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights; March 15, Miss E. Howe, Brecksville.
2. American Goldfinch; March 15, Miss E. Howe (several), Brecksville; March 25, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley.
3. Bald Eagle; February 16, Professor Herrick, Black River, near Vermilion, Ohio.
4. Belted Kingfisher; March 20, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; April 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.
5. Bluebird; March 7, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; March 11, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights; March 1 and 13, Miss E. Howe, Brecksville; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 3, Donald Hulme, Upper Shaker Lakes; April 9, (1) Wade Park.
6. Blue Jay; seen occasionally throughout the winter in Wade Park, on Hessler Road, and by several observers in different places; March 3, Mrs. Senior (2), Cornell Road.
7. Bronzed Grackle; one visited Professor Finfrock's feeding box at 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights all winter; March 9, Professor Finfrock (4), Adelbert Campus; March 11, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; same date, Donald Hulme, New Philadelphia, Ohio; March 13, Professor Herrick (40-50), Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights; March 18, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; same date, Donald Hulme, College for Women Campus.
8. [9 in original] Brown Creeper; once or twice during the winter (October 9 and January 15) and on April 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 12-13, several seen in Wade Park.
9. [10 in original] Canada Goose; March 1, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley (a flock of about 150 seen flying over); March 10, same observer in same place (a small flock); March 22, Miss Etzensperger, near Willoughby (heard flying over at night).
10. [11 in original] Cardinal; 4-5 seen frequently throughout winter in and around Wade and Rockefeller Park; February 25, one heard singing on Hessler Road; heard all through March by Miss E. Howe, Brecksville; seen throughout the winter by Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch, and Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road.
11. Towhee; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 3, Donald Hulme, Upper Shaker Lake; April 10 (1 female), Wade Park.
12. Chickadee; seen frequently throughout the winter in and around Wade Park and other parts of the city by several different observers.

13. Chipping Sparrow; March 25, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley.
14. Cow Blackbird; March 22, Donald Hulme (2-3), on road near Brecksville.
15. Downy Woodpecker; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; same date, Donald Hulme, Upper Shaker Lake; April 9-10, and 12, several seen feeding on the ground in Wade Park with a flock of Juncos.
16. Flicker; February 6, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights, (evidently a winter resident); March 3, Miss Lucy Wendorff, Demington Drive, Cleveland Heights; April 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 9-10, several seen in Wade Park.
17. Fox Sparrow; March 22 (and for several consecutive days), 3-4 were seen in Wade Park; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.

[18 omitted]

19. Golden-crowned Kinglet; January 2 (3-4), and occasionally afterwards in Wade Park; January 14 (2-3) Lake Shore Boulevard; April 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.
20. Greater Scaup Duck; (?) March 11, Miss M. Warner saw a small flock in the lower Chagrin Valley.
21. Hairy Woodpecker; January 20, Wade Park (1), and occasionally throughout the winter by Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch, and Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road.
22. Hermit Thrush; March 25, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; April 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 10, Dean Helen M. Smith, Hessler Road.
23. Herring Gull; seen frequently during the winter at Gordon Park.
24. House or English Sparrow; all through the winter in and around Wade Park and Hessler Road.
25. Junco; seen frequently throughout the winter (usually several together) in Wade Park, and by Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.
26. Killdeer; March 11, Donald Hulme, New Philadelphia, Ohio; March 17, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; March 18, Miss Etzensperger near Willoughby; March 23, Lake View.
27. Meadow Lark; March 9, Miss E. Howe (several) Brecksville; March 15, Professor Visscher (2) Cleveland Heights; March 18, Miss M. Warner, (several), lower Chagrin Valley; March 22, Miss Bourne, Lake Shore Boulevard; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.
28. Mourning Dove; March 12, Miss E. Howe, Brecksville; March 20, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; April 3, Donald Hulme, (several) Upper Shaker Lake; April 10, two sitting on the ground, Wade Park.
29. Phoebe; March 25, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 3, Donald Hulme, Upper Shaker Lake; April 10, one seen in Wade Park.
30. Quail (Bob White); throughout the winter, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch.
31. Red-winged Blackbird; March 15, Miss E. Howe, Brecksville; March 18, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; March 20, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; March 23, several seen in Lake View.
32. Red-tailed Hawk ("Hen Hawk"); two seen for several weeks after about the middle of February by Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; March 20, nest of the Red-tailed Hawks discovered, Miss Warner, same place.